nuts, cotton and tobacco, on the whole, are ruling at levels higher than the Minimum Support Prices fixed for these commodities and which are considered to be remunerative prices. However, there has been a substantial fall in the prices of chillies in April 1993 as compared to the prices in April, 1992. In order to help the growers in getting remunerative prices, the price support operations are effected in the case of groundnut, cotton and tobacco by the price support agencies as and when required. As a measure to influence the domestic prices of chillies, efforts are being made to increase the exports through the following export promotion measures :—

(i) chillies and its product can be freely exported without any restrictions;

(ii) spices exported in whole form without processing are exempted from sales/purchase tax. The profit derived from export transactions are exempted from income tax; and

(iii) exports of chillies are not canalised at present.

Agricultural Policy

1284. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Reserve Bank of India expert study has recently recommanded a 10 point "agricultural policy for India";

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India undertakes policy oriented research studies in collaboration with experts from outside the Bank under the aegis of Development Research Group (DRG) located in the Department of Economic Analysis and Policy. A recent DRG Study on 'Agricultural Policy in India-Context, Issues and Instruments' was undertaken by Prof. M.V. Nadkarni, Ecology-Economic Unit, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. The study did not recommend any specific 10 point "Agricultural Policy for India" as such.

(b) Stricter implementation of ceilings on ownership of agricultural holdings, Cooperatives and collective participation of individual holders for implementation of soil conservation programmes and efficient and equitable management of canal and tank irrigation, imaginative development of common lands to meet peoples' needs, emphasis on dry land and irrigation development particularly in backward areas, phased abolition of input subsidies for sustainable development, total ban on hazardous chemicals; qualitative improvement in irrigation to avoid water logging and salinity, encouraging agricultural exports in value added and processed forms, etc. are some of the major recommendations of the study.

(c) DRG studies are released for wider circulation with a view to generating constructive discussion among professional economists and policy makers.